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18 DEC 2001

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Hayes

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: New US Patent Application corresponding to International Application  
PCT/EP01/04694

Filed April 26, 2001

Title Muffler Device of a Motor Vehicle, With Variable Damping Characteristic

Applicant Schumacher et al

Attorney Docket (E) 1734 US

Box PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Enclosed is a Substitute Specification together with a Version with Markings to show  
Changes Made in this amendment.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-22 and insert the attached new claims 23-62.